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Jami M M Procopio

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: J. L. Epps-Ford, Ph.D.

Group Art Unit: 1635

In the application of:

Jeffrey SEILHAMER, et al.

Serial No.: 09/902,517

Filing Date: 09 July 2001

For: IMMUNOASSAYS FOR HUMAN BRAIN

NATRIURETIC PEPTIDE (AS

AMENDED)

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to an Office Action herein mailed 25 March 2003, time for response to which was set to expire 25 June 2003. A petition for an extension of time of one (1) month until 25 July 2003 is attached hereto, along with the required fee.

The considered claims, claims 32 and 41-44, were rejected. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration and comments in the prior Office Action, and respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following amendment and discussion.